

**Confidential**

EARLY WARNING

Vol. III, No. 5, June 1985

Syria's Kamikazes

There are disturbing indications that Syria's President **Hafiz al-Assad** has decided to sponsor a new wave of terrorist attacks on Western, Israeli and moderate Arab targets in which suicide bombers and kamikaze pilots will attempt acts of mass destruction. The recent release of 1,150 captive terrorists by the Israelis in a prisoner exchange with Syria will supply plenty of new recruits for this offensive.

According to informed sources in Damascus, President Assad expects Soviet blessing for his plans. Syrian intelligence already provides the KGB with useful channels to the Shi'ite terrorist networks. There is now the prospect that Assad could play marriage broker in sealing a new accommodation between Moscow and the fundamentalist rulers of Iran - though this would require the Soviets to cut back on arms deliveries to Iraq and to speed the flow of weapons and *matériel* to Teheran. Whether or not the rapprochement with the ayatollahs comes to pass, the Soviets anticipate valuable spin-offs from the planned Syrian offensive: a new Middle East crisis to divert the **Reagan** administration, and an upsurge in terrorism against U.S. and NATO targets in Western Europe, thanks to Syrian/Shi'ite collusion with the revolutionary underground there.

Exalting the martyr

Assad has been profoundly impressed by the success of Lebanese Shi'ite suicide squads in forcing a hasty U.S. withdrawal from Beirut and in "breaking Israel's fighting spirit" - as he has expressed himself in recent conversations with his brother **Rifaat** and his key intelligence aide, General **Muhammad al-Kholi**. Some veteran observers believe that Assad himself has undergone a dramatic psychological change in recent months, and that he is inspired today by the Islamic cult of *shahadah* (martyrdom in a holy cause), which is characteristic of the Shi'ite extremist terrorists, as much as he is by any political calculations. Some evidence to support this view could be gleaned from the extraordinary speech Assad delivered to the ninth congress of the National Federation of Syrian Students in Damascus on May 4. The Syrian leader declared, *inter alia*, that "I have believed in the greatness of martyrdom [*shahadah*] and the importance of sacrifice [*fida*] since my youth. My feeling and conviction was that the heavy burden on our people and nation . . . could be removed and uprooted only through sacrifice and martyrdom." Assad went on:

"Early in my military life, I used to discuss with my colleagues the necessity for the state to form suicide squads from among the pilots. We used the word

'suicidals' [*intihariyin*] and the well-known Japanese word 'kamikaze.' We used to say: True, every pilot is already a commando [*fida'i*] by virtue of his profession. Still, we must differentiate between the ordinary mission and the commando [*fida'i*] mission which requires the pilot to pounce on the enemy target and strike enemy ships, airports and other targets by turning himself his plane and the bombs into one fireball. Such attacks can inflict heavy losses on the enemy. They guarantee results, in terms of scoring a direct hit, spreading terror among enemy ranks, raising people's morale, and enhancing citizens' awareness of the importance of martyrdom. Thus, waves of popular martyrdom will follow successively and the enemy will not be able to endure them."

Waxing more and more emotional, the Syrian leader asserted that "My conviction of martyrdom is neither incidental nor temporary. The years have entrenched this conviction . . . I hope that my life will end only with martyrdom."

There is a cutting edge to these rhetorical ecstasies. *EW* has learned from reliable intelligence sources that since March of this year, Assad in person, with the assistance of Muhammad al-Kholi, has been supervising the training of handpicked

CONTENTS

Assad Trains Suicide Pilots	1
Peres Stumbles	2
Secrets of the Weather Underground	3
Egyptian-Jordanian Partnership	4
Special Report: <i>Agents Provocateurs</i> and the Sikh Revolt	5
Soviets target "Star Wars"	8
Brazil Creates a CIA	8
Soviet Military Buildup in Korea	9
Bolivia: Banzer Tries for a Comeback	10
Ballots and Bullets in Guatemala	11